

STAY UP-TO-DATE

Bushfire Emergencies



VISIT COUNCIL
WEBSITE FOR LINKS
OR CALL COUNCIL
ON:

5573 0444

COUNCIL'S ROLE DURING AN EMERGENCY



- Activate the municipal emergency coordination centre which is a location where council emergency management activities are coordinated.
- Activities may include opening and operating an emergency relief centre for displaced residents. Services may include assistance with food and clothing, temporary accommodation, personal support services and access to grants or financial aid.
- Other activities include secondary impact assessment, road/tree clearing, traffic management support, animal welfare related services, volunteer/donations coordination and assisting the distribution of warnings and information to the public and media.

www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au/emergencies

BUSHFIRE PLACES OF LAST RESORT



A BPLR (also known as a Neighbourhood Safer Place) is the last resort when all other household bushfire plans have failed. It does not provide the same level of protection as a well-constructed defensible home, private or neighbourhood bushfire shelter, or a community fire refuge. It should not be confused with an evacuation centre, which provides affected people with the essentials including accommodation, food, and water during an emergency like bushfire. Evacuation centres are set up and operated by the relevant agencies during the emergency. Southern Grampians features a BPLR in Balmoral, Branxholme, Cavendish, Coleraine, Dunkeld, Glenthompson, Hamilton and Penshurst.

<https://www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au/Emergencies/Bushfire-Places-of-Last-Resort>

BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN



It's important to prepare and practice your own home emergency plans, have a go - bag ready, and know where you will get reliable information during the event of a fire. Plan what choices you will make if a fire breaks out near your home. Know your triggers when to leave, where you will go and how to safely get there. Your plans should include your pets, horses and other livestock. Being prepared is a critical step in being ready. The [CFA](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) has some key tips to help you plan for a bushfire event as well as many helpful publications to help you prepare, including the Fire Ready Kit.

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/your-bushfire-plan>

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



It is normal to have strong reactions and emotions following a distressing or frightening event, and people can experience a range of physical, mental, emotional and behavioural reactions. There are a number support services available to assist you and your family.

- **Beyond Blue - 24hrs, 7 days a week - 1300 224 636**
- **Lifeline - 24hrs a day, 7 days a week - 13 11 14**
- **Kids Helpline - 24hrs, 7 days a week - 1800 55 1800**
- **National Centre for Farmer Health - 5551 8533, <https://farmerhealth.org.au/>**
- **Rural Financial Counselling Service - 1300 735 587 <https://wswrcs.com.au/>**

LIVESTOCK



Bushfire may result in large numbers of animal carcasses requiring disposal. For information on livestock disposal, please contact **Agriculture Victoria 136 186** or contact Council on 5573 0444.

STAY UP-TO-DATE

Bushfire Emergencies

WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO SMOKE



- If you see or smell smoke outside you should reduce your exposure to smoke.
- Stay indoors – but only if it's safe to do so.
- Reduce outdoor physical activity, especially if you develop symptoms like cough or shortness of breath.
- Keep track of conditions and consider closing windows and doors until outdoor air quality is better.
- Use a portable air cleaner with a HEPA filter if you have access to one. Fact sheet – [Smoke and portable indoor air cleaners](#)
- Use a [P2 or N95 mask](#) when outdoors. If you have a pre-existing heart or lung condition, seek advice from your doctor if you experience difficulty breathing while wearing a mask.
- Go to a place with cleaner air (such as an air-conditioned building like a library or shopping centre) if it is safe to do so.
- Follow the treatment plan recommended by your doctor.
- If you or anyone in your care has trouble breathing or tightness in the chest, call 000 for an ambulance.
- Signs of short-term smoke discomfort such as eye, nose and throat irritation and coughing usually clear up in healthy adults once away from the smoke.
- Stay informed. Check the [EPA air quality webpage](#).

POWER OUTAGES



- Keep clear of fallen powerlines and keep others away.
- Be careful with temporary generators.
- If there has been significant damage to your property, ensure a licensed electrician checks that it is safe to turn your power back on.
- Ensure you have torches, batteries and your mobile phones are charged.
- Try to keep cold and frozen food as cold as possible. This is the most important thing. If food is still cold to touch (less than 5 °C), it is safe to use.
- Once cold or frozen food is no longer cold to touch, it can be kept and eaten for up to four hours and then it must be thrown away or, if it is raw meat, it should be cooked and eaten.

PRIVATE DRINKING WATER



If you live in a bushfire-affected area your drinking water tank could have become contaminated from debris, ash, dead animals or aerial fire retardants. If the water tastes, looks or smells unusual, do not drink it or give it to animals. Water from a river or creek should never be used for drinking or preparing food unless it has been properly treated. Water drawn from deep bores or wells should be safe to use.

STAY INFORMED

The VicEmergency app aligns with the VicEmergency website to provide a centralised location for Victorians to access timely emergency information and warnings.

<https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond>

/ You can download VicEmergency from the App Store or Google Play

Local Emergency Broadcasters

- ABC Local Radio 94.1FM, 107.9FM, 594AM
- 3HA 981AM
- Mixx 88.9FM
- SkyNews television

VicEmergency Hotline: 1800 226 226



Southern Grampians
SHIRE COUNCIL